

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 172117Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7321

UNCLAS CARACAS 0679

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP VE

SUBJECT: MEDICAL/HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT EXHIBIT

REF: STATE 278760

1. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, GOV, JANUARY 16 TO DISCUSS IMPORT OF EXHIBITION WARES FOR MEDICAL SOLO EXHIBITION. DIRECTOR GENERAL STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT DESPITE PROVISIONS ARTICLE 6 AND 66 OF CUSTOMS LAW, EXHIBITION MATERIALS COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO VENEZUELA IN ONLY TWO WAYS. ONE, BY POSTING A BOND THROUGH A CUSTOMS BROKER OR, TWO, BY PAYING DUTIES. HE STATED VENEZUELAN INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW DOES NOT ALLOW HIM LATITUDE FOR ANY OTHER PROCEDURE. HE SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND HIS OFFICE GIVING DETAILS OF FAIR, NAMING CUSTOMS BROKER AND GIVING GENERAL NOTION OF VARIETY AND QUANTITY OF EXHIBITION MATERIALS TO BE IMPORTED. HE INDICATED HE WOULD REPLY ACKNOWLEDGING THE LETTER AND AUTHORIZING A PERIOD UNDER WHICH THE GOODS COULD REMAIN IN COUNTRY UNDER BOND. HE SUGGESTED 120 DAYS RATHER THAN 90 DAYS OF FREE STORAGE PERIOD JUST TO BE ON SAFE SIDE.

2. ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO BONDING PROCEDURE IS PAYMENT OF DUTIES ON ENTRY. IF LATTER METHOD IS SELECTED, DUTIES ON EQUIPMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS: ORTHOPEDIC EQUIPMENT, 0.5 TO 2PCT SURGICAL EQUIPMENT, 10PCT; ELECTRONIC MEDICAL EQUIPMENT 1-5PCT; SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, 1-5 PCT. IF BONDING PROCEDURE THROUGH CUSTOMS BROKER ALTERNATE SELECTED, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS SERVICE MUST BE OFFERED TO AT LEAST

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THREE BIDDERS BY EMBASSY ADMIN SECTION, IN WHICH CASE

EMBASSY WILL NEED EARLIEST POSSIBLE DETAILS ON EXTENT OF MATERIALS TO BE IMPORTED IN ORDER PROVIDE BIDDERS WITH OSME IDEA OF SCOPE OF JOB THEY ARE BIDDING ON.
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